make the cost affordable by poorer sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) It is a fact that the common gadgets required for heart patients like heart valves and pace makers are rather costly and their cost may vary from Rs. 15000 to 60000/-

(c) Provision of health care is a State subject. Almost in all the Government hospitals medical care is provided either, free of cost or at subsidised rates depending upon the economic status of the patient.

3388. *[Transferred to 17th December, 1992]*

Anti-AIDS drug

3389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first anti-AIDS drug ZIDOVUDINE, made in India would hit the domestic market shortly as per the news-item appeared in the Times of India, dated 11th November, 1992 under the caption "India-made anti-AIDS drug soon in market"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The Drugs Controller (India) has permitted M/s CIPLA to manufacture and market Azidothymidine (AZT) in India. It is understood that the company has started marketing the drug in November, 1992.

Deaths of newly born babies

3390. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 lakh newly born babies die within 28 days of birth every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per the latest available Sample Registration System estimates of 1989 of Registrar General of India, number of neo natal deaths in 1989 was 13.2 lakhs.

(b) According to SRS reports for 1988, the major causes of neo natal deaths are: Prematurity, Respiratory infection of new born, cord infection, congenital malformation, diahorea of new born, birth injuries, and other causes.

(c) An integrated package of services under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme is being provided for reducing IMR, including neo natal deaths, in India. The Programme has the following components:—

(i) The Universal Immunization Programme for control of Vaccine Preventable Diseases being implemented. One of the goals is to eliminate Neo-netal tetanus which was a major cause of neo-natal deaths, prior to the immunization programme.

(ii) Universalize the existing prophylaxis Scheme for control of anaemia for pregnant women through administration of Iron and Folic Acid tablets in order to prevent low birth weight babies who contribute to a large proportion of neo natal deaths.

(iii) Improving maternal care at the

community level by providing a mid-wifery kit to the female paramedical workers, payment of enhanced reporting fee of Rs. 10.00 per case to the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and making available disposable delivery kits to the pregnant women, to be used by the attendant during delivery to ensure clean delivery;

(iv) Primary Health Centres in 90 identified districts with poor demographic profile will be strengthened by providing extra facilities which will include provision of a properly equipped labour room; and

(v) Promotion of exclusive breast feeding and also colostrum to neonates.

Conversion of Vicks into Ayurvedic products

3391. DR. FAGUNI RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vicks range of products were converted into Ayurvedic products without changing the composition with the approval of his Ministry;

(b) on what basis this change was allowed;

(c) what are the criteria for training Allopathic products as Ayurvedic;

(d) whether this has enable the producer to charge more prices from the consumers; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that in the past prices of Vicks range of products were being fixed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Licencing for the manufacture of Ayurvedic drugs is under the purview of State Drug Licencing Authorities. Vicks Vaporub & Vicks Inhaler were permitted to be manufactured as Ayurvedic drugs by changing the formulas and names of their ingredients according to ayurveda as early as in 1985 by Licencing Authorities of Indian Systems of Medicine, Andhra Pradesh. However, in a reference made to this Ministry by F.D.A. Maharashtra in 1988, it was advised not to permit conversion of the existing allopathic drug licences into ayurvedic drugs in the same brand name.

(d) and (e) Vicks formula 44 cough syrup and Vicks formula 44 cough discs were under price control in the recent past.

Scientists to probe link between Vaccine-AIDS

3392. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 8th April, 1992 under the caption "Scientists to probe link between vaccine-AIDS";

(b) whether Government propose to review the entire bio-technology programme including Vaccine Action Plan and other similar projects in hand;

(c) whether Government also propose to appoint a high powered task force of non-official scientists to look into the matter independently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deptt. of Biotechnology is already keeping a close watch on the developments in relation to products,